

# Research to Risk Assessment (R2RA): Proposed Action Plan Outline

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## Goals of the Research to Risk Assessment initiative

1. To create an ongoing communication network among SRP, EPA and ATSDR.
2. To foster an environment of mutual learning.
3. To promote the near-term use of cutting-edge research science to further assist and advance the assessment of environmental/public health risks of hazardous substances in the environment.

Based on the discussions and ideas presented in the initial June 15, 2011 conference call, we have identified proposed action items and broad time frames to begin progress towards these goals:

## First Year Objectives

**Objective One:** Establish our network of risk assessors, health assessors, and scientists

- Create initial network based on SRP/MDB knowledge of EPA and ATSDR staff  
*Complete*
- Identify and invite additional participants from EPA and ATSDR to provide additional expertise  
*As needed*
- Identify and invite SRP-funded researchers to provide project-specific expertise  
*As needed*

**Objective Two:** Establish effective communication processes

- Conduct conference calls on a regular basis.  
*September conference call - Work Group to define "regular". Bimonthly? Quarterly?*
- Develop a list of additional communication tools to supplement conference calls.  
*September-October*
- Develop a list of relevant national meetings where network members could meet.  
Note: the 2011 Annual Meeting is October 23-26, Lexington, KY  
*September-October*
- Create web page to allow for document sharing  
*In progress*

**Objective Three:** Explore and engage in mutual learning

- Develop a list of concepts (e.g. IRIS process, Cumulative Risk Assessment, “omics” research) that the network would like to explore; and identify potential speakers  
*December conference call*
- Prioritize the concept list, schedule and conduct the first series of webinars  
*January 2012*

**Objective Four:** Select SRP-funded research for R2RA Pilot Project(s)

- Document a list of screening criteria and identify candidate projects  
*Lists drafted*  
*September conference call: discuss with network participants*
- Revise list as needed to incorporate any additions or revisions to the criteria requested by the network participants  
*As needed*
- Discuss candidate projects list with network participants to determine priorities  
*Time permitting, will begin discussion on September conference call*
- Select R2RA Pilot Project(s), identify Pilot Project Leads  
*September-November - follow-up on discussions on September conference call via email, telephone, and/or additional conference call(s)*
- Document approach, outcome(s), and researcher involvement for each Pilot Project  
*September-November - follow-up on discussions on September conference call via email, telephone, and/or additional conference call(s)*
- Initiate pilots, support interagency collaboration, compile and address feedback  
*As needed*

**Future Objectives:**

- Evaluate and refine the Initial year network process
- Enhance the network to support wider agency audiences
- Prepare progress reports at least annually to document results and how to improve future applications and pilots
- Identify and implement additional rounds of pilot research projects
- Publish the results of pilot project(s)